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**CLAIMS:**

- 05     1.     A bed or mattress including a plurality of springs which, or  
some at least of which, are movable in their axial directions so as to  
vary the compression of the springs or some at least of the springs,  
without materially or substantially changing the position of the upper  
surface of the bed or mattress.
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2.     A bed or mattress according to Claim 1, including a base to  
which the springs, or some of the springs, are directly or indirectly  
secured, said base being movable in the axial direction of the springs  
so as to vary the compression of said springs or some at least of said  
15     springs, an upper surface of said bed or mattress remaining in the same  
horizontal plane or substantially the same horizontal plane regardless  
of the degree of compression of said springs or some at least of said  
springs and the position of said base.
- 20     3.     A bed or mattress according to Claim 2, wherein said base is

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is formed as a single structure.

05     4.     A bed or mattress according to Claim 2, wherein said base is  
formed of a plurality of sections movable independently of one  
another so that the compression of the springs may be varied in  
selected areas or in a selected area of said bed or mattress.

10     5.     A bed or mattress according to Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein  
said base or a part or parts of said base is/are moved in the axial  
direction of the springs by one or more air bags, screw motors,  
electric motors, or by means of jack handle(s) or by any other suitable  
means.

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6.     A bed or mattress according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein  
the springs are arranged in rows each surrounded or partially  
surrounded by fabric or other suitable material.

20     7.     A bed or mattress according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein

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two rows, three rows or more are each surrounded or partially surrounded by a single piece of fabric or other suitable material.

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8. A bed or mattress according to Claim 6, wherein the rows of springs or some of the rows of springs are secured directly to the base.

9. A bed or mattress according to Claim 6, wherein adjacent rows of springs or groups of rows of springs are adhesively secured together and a bar or other means is located between said rows or groups of rows of springs.

10. A bed or mattress according to any of Claims 1 to 9, wherein said springs are single pocketed springs, double pocketed springs, pocketed springs arranged in end-to-end and co-axial relationship, or a combination thereof.

11. A bed or mattress comprising a base and a plurality of rows of springs, said base or a part or parts of said base being movable in the

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axial direction of the springs so as to vary the compression of the springs or some at least of said springs without materially or  
05 substantially changing the position of the upper surface of the bed or mattress, said springs being pocketed springs or double pocketed springs secured directly or indirectly to said base.

12. A method of varying the compression of the springs or some at  
10 least of the springs of a bed or mattress including a base and a plurality of springs secured directly or indirectly to said base comprising moving the base or at least a part or parts of said base in the axial direction of said springs whilst maintaining an upper surface of the bed or mattress in the same horizontal plane or substantially the same  
15 horizontal plane regardless of the degree of compression of the springs and the position of said base.